approval request is within the authority of the approver. The operation goes to step a129 when the amount is within the authority, whereas the operation goes to step a128 when not within the authority. At step a129, the user having inputted a fingerprint affixes his/her approval seal to the approval request and passes the approval request with the approval seal affixed on the next approver. That is to say, data transmission to the next approver is performed via network. Then, the operation is ended. At step a128, the user having inputted a fingerprint affixes his/her approval seal to the approval request, stores the approval request with the approval seal affixed into a storage place set in the approval request file and performs an order form issuing process, whereby the operation is ended.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended)   An information processing apparatus comprising:

fingerprint verification means for verifying a fingerprint read from a fingerprint reading surface against previously stored fingerprints of authorized users,

the information processing apparatus further comprising:

display means having a display surface with orthogonal coordinates set thereon;

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coordinate designating means for designating coordinates related to

fingerprint reading on the display surface;

secret number acquiring means for acquiring a secret number based on

said designated coordinates;

secret number identifying means for verifying the acquired secret

number against a previously stored secret number; and

control means for controlling an operation based on designated

coordinates and a result of the secret number verification.

6. (Amended)   The information processing apparatus of claim 1,

wherein the control means activates the fingerprint verification means when

the secret numbers match each other.

13. (Amended)   The information processing apparatus of claim 11,

wherein the respective icons are associated with files for the respective

authorized users; and

when an icon is designated and there is a match in fingerprint as a result

of the fingerprint verification, the control means opens only a file of a user

having the matching fingerprint out of files associated with the designated icon.

16. (Amended)   The information processing apparatus of claim 1,

wherein a document having a seal box is displayed on the display means; and

when detected coordinates are coordinates of the seal box, the control

means affixes an approval seal in the seal box of the document,

the information processing apparatus further comprising:

approval request processing means for subjecting an approval-seal affixed document to an approval request processing.